

**7.1 Sydney Conservatorium of Music: Response to Questions without Notice***pages C2-C23*

At its meeting of 2 July 2008 the Academic Board noted that the following questions without notice were tabled by the Students Representative Council:

Students at the Conservatorium of Music have approached the SRC in great numbers. While students have reported that they are happy with the introduction of the Early and Modern Music Ensembles and the presentation of more concerts at the Con, they do however have a number of concerns regarding the quality of their teaching and learning experience.

On behalf of these students, the SRC would like to table the following questions regarding teaching and learning at the Conservatorium, and request recorded answers.

1. What is the current practice at the Conservatorium of Music in regard to the following issues?

How is current practice different from the last five years?

How does current practice compare to similar institutions, both nationally and internationally, including comparisons with the Australian National Academy of Music?

- hours per student for individual tuition
- access to free accompaniment (It is very costly to pay for accompaniment and this unduly adds to student expenses).
- Chamber music tutorials
- Hours for orchestral studies and concerti
- Solo performance opportunities
- Technical exams

2. It is apparent to the SRC that the rationale behind recent changes to degree programmes at the Conservatorium are not appreciated by students.

Please can the Faculty outline the reasons for changes in the following:

- Second year public recital
- Study of Pedagogy
- Study of Music Technology
- Development of Recital Preparation
- Study of free choice subjects.

3. Please can the Faculty outline the availability of practice rooms for students?

The Academic Board agreed that these questions would be referred to the Dean of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music for a response. That response has been received and is enclosed for the information of members.

***Recommendation***

*That the Academic Board note the response from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to questions without notice from the Students Representative Council, as set out in the report presented.*



MEDIA RELEASE  
Monday 8 October 2007

## **SCM UNDERGRADUATE AWARD COURSES 2008**

### **Our Commitment to Growth**

The Sydney Conservatorium of Music is pleased to offer nine new undergraduate degree and diploma programs for 2008 including a new Honours year for Bachelor of Music Studies and combined Music/Arts and Music/Medicine degrees. All incoming students in 2008 will enrol in the new programs. Currently enrolled students can transfer into the updated programs or choose to remain in their current degree programs until graduation. The length and general structure of the award courses has not been altered and there are no changes to the Conservatorium's flagship orchestral, small ensemble or chamber music performance programs.

### **Our Commitment to Success**

The curriculum changes reflect the reality of national and international developments in the music professions and are designed to increase and enhance our student's professional and study opportunities after graduation. Current learning philosophies and the highest international standards informed every step of the review and changes are in keeping with The University of Sydney's efforts to standardise units of study to 6 points in order to facilitate cross-disciplinary study and transfer student enrolment.

### **Our Commitment to Openness and Consultation**

The extensive curriculum review began in 2005 and was initiated by Professor Kim Walker, Dean of the Conservatorium of Music. A Curriculum Task Force, chaired by Dr Jennie Shaw, Pro Dean and Head of School, consulted with current students, faculty, peer institutions and professional organizations to come up with a Draft Report that was open for comment for over five months. The revised draft adopted many of the submissions from students and faculty and was presented at a Conservatorium-wide forum attended by over 150 students and staff in October 2006. This draft unanimously endorsed by the Conservatorium's College Board and then subjected to The University's rigorous approval process. The University's Academic Board and Senate adopted the new curriculum in July 2007.

### **Our Commitment to Our Current Students**

We are pleased to offer new opportunities for our current students and support them in their choices. To help current students make an informed decision about the future of their studies, the Conservatorium held 19 transition meetings over the month of August. About 250 students (55% of those eligible for transfer) attended. Less than a week into the University's pre-enrolment period beginning October 2 and already 14% of those eligible to transfer into the new award course have elected to do so.

### **Our Commitment to Performance**

Performance continues to be the cornerstone of musical education at the Conservatorium. The changes do not reduce the amount of individual tuition that students receive in any of our undergraduate Bachelor of Music and Diploma courses that prepare students for professional performance careers. Individual tuition for students in the more general Bachelor of Music Studies and Bachelor of Music (Music Education) will actually increase in their first year, enabling those students who wish to transfer to a performance stream in their second year to do so. While compulsory individual instrument/vocal study has been reduced

from three years to two in the Bachelor of Music (Music Education) program, students may elect to continue their lessons into their third year.

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### **2008 Update**

- Over 50% of students previously enrolled in the old programs have shifted into the post-2008 degrees.
- Student evaluation forms from largely new units of study have recently been returned for semester 1, 2008 with an over 80% satisfactory response.
- Transition and other degree information including performance opportunity comparisons were made available at all Transition Sessions held in August, 2007. Transition information continues to be available on the faculty website, as well as one-to-one advice from the Transition Advisor and Undergraduate Studies Coordinator. *Please see Addendums A & B*

**Addendum A**

PREVIOUS	NEW
<p>Principal Study 14 hrs (Bmus) 8+4 hrs / 9+3 hrs (BmusStud) Concert Practice/Performance Workshop with 6 min performance Students perform 12 minutes in class setting and have 12-14 hours lessons</p>	<p>Principal Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ B Mus and BMusStud 14 hrs.</li> <li>▪ (BMusStud 8 ÷ variable format)</li> <li>▪ Performance Workshop PLUS Class Recital(s)</li> <li>▪ <b>CHANGE:</b> Increased opportunity for performance and feedback for all students. <b>400% increase in student performance opportunity. 14 weeks lessons for all.</b></li> </ul>
<p>Currently Major or minor status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common 1<sup>st</sup> Year with 14 lessons for all students.</li> <li>• Same Principal Study for all students</li> </ul>
<p>Performance Workshop 2 hrs with large group Major CP, Minor CP, PG CP 3x6 minute performances = 18 minutes in class setting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Performance Workshop 20 hrs in smaller groups</li> <li>▪ 30-60 mins performance opportunity</li> <li>▪ Blending of UG and PG by instruments.</li> <li>▪ Students learn repertoire and pedagogy across curriculum.</li> <li>▪ Class recital with 15 minutes live performance as well as 30 minutes or more in class setting.</li> <li>▪ <b>Three to four times more performance experience.</b></li> </ul>
<p>3x6 minute performances = 18 minutes in class setting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Class recital with 15 minutes live performance as well as 30 minutes or more in class setting.</li> <li>▪ <b>Three to four times more performance experience.</b></li> </ul>

PREVIOUS	NEW
2004-06 No student concerto competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2007 Student concerto competition. Winners to be chosen by merit and to perform with orchestra.</li> <li>▪ <b>Successful and continuing.</b></li> </ul>
Orchestra SPW .2 or 3 times per year for one-third of the student body with Chamber orchestra and Symphony orchestras; choir; windband (1 semester); jazz big band.	<p>Conducted ensemble for all students with 2-4 professional concerts per annum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New ensembles 2007 for guitar and piano (Studio Rehearsal)</li> <li>▪ Options for credit if engaged by professional orchestras (as per policy)</li> <li>▪ Jazz —small groups, Wednesday lunchtime 6-12 Jazz Café nights per annum. Symphony Orchestra; Chamber Orchestra; Early Music Ensemble; Modern Music Ensemble; Jazz; Wind Band; Recorder Ensemble; Gamelan Ensemble</li> <li>▪ <b>CHANGE:</b> Provides far greater diversity of musical experience, and opportunity for all students. Four performances per annum and some additional sessions for exams and concertos. <b>100% increase for all students, and still only 50% of US norms. Orchestral UoS enough for accreditation across US and European international standards.</b></li> </ul>
No “second study” However, .....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Options for two semesters on related instrument either in lieu or as elective.</b></li> </ul>

PREVIOUS	NEW
<p>Chamber Music —students rarely attended more than 5 tutorials. Currently 6 tutorials + 3 / 4 seminars and concert. Prior to 2005, 8 chamber music recitals at SCM plus external concerts</p>	<p>Chamber Music 2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 6 tutorials + 3 / 4 seminars and concert Option to have more if and when group is well prepared</li> <li>▪ 10 concerts at SCM per semester as well as external concerts and tours.</li> <li>▪ <b>CHANGE: 12 more concerts or 250% increase.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Student Staff ratio improved for greater quality. SCM doubled budget and resources.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>88% increase in financial support</b></li> </ul>
<p>Staff accompanists for public recitals if students submit forms by deadline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff accompanists for students who enrol in Recital Preparation for up to 3 recitals / jury exams.</li> <li>▪ Only program in Australia to retain this program.</li> <li>▪ Hired additional staff 2007 (22% increase in academic staffing).</li> <li>▪ <b>Master Class Series 400% new and greater funding.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>24% in pianists with more anticipated in 2008</b></li> </ul>

8 October 2007

SYDNEY  
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OF MUSIC



### **Addendum B:**

*\* This information has been available on the SCM website since August 2007.*

## **Transition Information for Sydney Conservatorium of Music Undergraduate Award Courses 2008**

### **Do I need to read this information?**

If you are currently enrolled in a Sydney Conservatorium of Music undergraduate award, or you are a potential new/transfer student, you should read this information.

Following an extensive review of its undergraduate degrees, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music has developed nine new undergraduate degree and diploma programs for 2008. These new courses encompass a number of changes to ensure our programs continue to be relevant to current learning philosophies, meet or exceed their current high international standards and also enable students to freely move in the international music world. The review is in line with the University of Sydney's goal to standardise units of study at 6 credit points in order to facilitate cross-discipline/faculty and transfer student enrolment.

### **Do I need to transfer?**

No. This information is provided to help you make an informed choice. You can elect to transfer to a new award course or to stay in your current award course.

### **If I decide to transfer, do I have to do it now?**

No. While we expect most students who intend to transfer to do so in the October 2007 pre-enrolment period, you can elect to transfer at any time during your studies. Keep in mind, however, that it is not usually possible for you to transfer to any other Sydney Conservatorium of Music award course if you are in the final semester of your undergraduate degree.

### **Will my degree take longer to complete?**

No. If you are a transition student who has completed all core requirements you will be allowed to graduate up to 3 credit points short of the usual degree/diploma total if this would otherwise mean you would be required to over-enrol or extend your enrolment.

### **What are the major changes?**

These are summarised below. Please also see the summary listed under individual degree/diploma headings. Details of core requirements, recommended unit of study enrolment tables and details of units of study will be available for 2008 pre-enrolment in the online Sydney Conservatorium of Music Handbook. Please also consult the Faculty Resolutions and Faculty Rules in the Handbook for more information.

### Will the name of my degree or diploma change?

There are some changes. Below is a list of the new 2008 undergraduate awards by name and duration and their pre-2008 equivalents:

#### 2008 award courses

Diploma of Music - 2 years  
Advanced Diploma of Opera - 3 years  
Bachelor of Music Studies - 3 years\*  
Bachelor of Music (Performance) - 4 yrs\*\*  
Bachelor of Music (Composition) - 4 yrs\*\*  
Bachelor of Music (Musicology) – 4 yrs\*\*  
Bachelor of Music (Music Education)  
- 4 years\*\*  
Bachelor of Music Studies / Bachelor of  
Arts – 5 years\*\*\*  
Bachelor of Music Studies / Bachelor of  
Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery – 7 years\*

#### pre-2008 award courses

Diploma of Music - 2 years  
Diploma of Opera - 3 years  
Bachelor of Music Studies - 3 years\*  
Bachelor of Music (Performance) - 4yrs\*\*  
Bachelor of Music (Composition) - 4yrs\*\*  
Bachelor of Music (Musicology) – 4 yrs\*\*  
Bachelor of Music (Music Education)  
- 4 years\*\*  
Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Music  
Studies – 5 years\*\*\*  
Bachelor of Music Studies / Bachelor of  
Medicine / Bachelor of Surgery – 7 yrs\*

\* *additional appended honours year in Music Studies available*

\*\* *honours stream available*

\*\*\* *additional appended honours year/s available in Music Studies and/or Arts*

If you choose not to transfer to one of the new award courses your transcript will record the name of your current (pre 2008) award course.

### Do I still have to fulfil core requirements?

Yes. You have to complete 96 credit points including core requirements and free choice electives in the Diploma of Music; 144 credit points including core requirements and free choice electives in the Advanced Diploma of Opera and the Bachelor of Music Studies degree; 192 credit points including core requirements and free choice electives in the Bachelor of Music degrees; 240 credit points in music and arts units of study including core requirements in the Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Arts degree; and 336 credit points in music, science and medicine units of study including core requirements in the Bachelor of Music Studies/MBBS degree.

### Will all units of study be worth 6 credit points?

No, but most new units of study, including Principal Study, will now be worth 6 credit points. The faculty will continue to offer some 3-credit point units of study in areas such as pedagogy, harmony, aural perception, historical and cultural studies, choir and chamber music. In addition, some Honours units of study are worth 12 credit points and, in the Bachelor of Music (Music Education) program, teaching practicum (Professional Experience), taken in the final semester of study, is worth 18 credit points.

### Will I still have individual lessons for Principal Study?

Yes, but there are some significant changes.

- Major and minor levels of Principal Study have been removed.
- All instrumental/vocal students in the **first year** of the Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Studies, the Bachelor of Music Studies /Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Music Studies / MBBS (the combined degrees), the Diploma of Music and the Advanced Diploma of Opera will have **14 individual lessons per semester**.

- All instrumental/vocal students in the Bachelor of Music (Performance), Diploma of Music and Advanced Diploma of Opera programs will continue to have **14 individual lessons per semester** until they have successfully completed Principal Study.
- Most instrumental students in the Bachelor of Music Studies and the combined degrees will have **8 - 9 individual lessons plus 3 - 4 ensemble or group lessons (or equivalent) per semester** in years 2 and 3.
- Bachelor of Music (Music Education) instrumental students **will have 6 individual lessons plus 6 ensemble lessons or equivalent per semester** in years 2 and 3.
- In the second and third years of the BMus Studies, combined degree programs and BMus (Mus Ed) in some specialisations, such as Organ and Piano, students **may continue with 12 individual lessons per semester where student numbers and/or ensemble facilities do not make group lessons viable.**
- Students in the Bachelor of Music (Performance) programs are required to take **6 credit points of Principal Study plus 6 credit points of Principal Study (Advanced) units of study in fourth year (orchestral instruments) or in third and fourth year (non-orchestral instruments, classical voice, Jazz Studies).**
- Students in the DipMus take Principal Study 3 and 4 and Principal Study 3 and 4 (Advanced).
- Honours students in Performance will continue to enrol in Principal Study 7 and 8 (Honours) for 12 credit points in place of Principal Study 7 and 8 and Principal Study 7 and 8 (Advanced).
- Musicology and Composition students in the Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Studies and combined degree programs will continue to work in small groups in years 1 - 4 with individual supervision at Honours level in years 3 - 4.
- BMus (Perf) non-orchestral instrument/voice/jazz transition students who have completed Principal Study 5 under the pre-2008 degrees will NOT need to enrol in Principal Study 5 (Advanced) but will enrol in Principal Study 6 and Principal Study 6 (Advanced); BMus(Perf) transition students who have completed Principal Study 6 under the pre-2008 degrees will NOT need to enrol in Principal Study 6 (Advanced) but will enrol in Principal Study 7 and 8 and Principal Study 7 and 8 (Advanced)

#### **What are the other major changes to Core requirements?**

- **Music Technology** is now only a core requirement in the Bachelor of Music (Composition) and the Bachelor of Music (Music Education). A competency test in music technology may be taken prior to enrolment in this unit of study. If you pass the test you will not be required to take Music Technology. For all other students, Music Technology is still offered as a free choice subject (or may be used to count as a Music Skills unit) and is a prerequisite for a number of Composition units of study.
- Only 3 credit points of **Teaching Music/Pedagogy** units of study are core requirements in the BMus (excluding Music Education), BMusStudies, and combined degrees. Additional teaching music/pedagogy units of study may be taken as free choice units.
- **Orchestral Studies 1 to 8**, a core requirement for BMus (Performance) students, are all offered as 6 credit point units. Harpists, pianists and other students only involved in limited orchestral repertoire in a semester may enrol in 3 credit point Orchestral Studies units with departmental permission.

#### **Is Honours available in all undergraduate award courses?**

- No. Honours is not available in the Diploma and Advanced Diploma award courses. Honours is available in the Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Studies and combined degrees.
- An appended BMus Studies Honours year is now available to any BMusStudies or combined degree student who meets the honours requirements.

- Approved BMus students can continue to take honours in Composition, Music Education, Musicology and Performance. Honours credit points have been increased in Composition, Music Education and Performance.
- Pending University of Sydney Academic Board approval, the Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Studies and combined degrees (pass level) may be awarded with merit.

### **Bachelor of Music (Performance)**

- Principal Study together with Principal Study (Advanced) in the final year or years recognise the amount of student effort required for Principal Study in terms of contact hours and private practice.
- **Principal Study** includes 14 individual lessons per semester plus up to 12 weekly Performance Workshops per semester.
- **Principal Study (Advanced)** varies per specialisation and per semester and includes a range of activities such as attendance at/participation in weekly unit-specific class and/or unit masterclasses and concerts; keeping of practice and performance journals; and submission of recital plans and program notes. There is no additional individual lesson component allocated for Principal Study (Advanced).
- A new unit of study, **Recital Preparation** (3 credit points), is mandatory when a staff accompanist is required for a recital. This unit is available in semesters in which students have a recital or jury exam and may be taken up to 3 times.
- **Piano students** wishing to specialise in Accompaniment will take Piano 1 - 4 and Accompaniment 1 - 4 in semesters 1 to 4 followed by Accompaniment 5 to 8 and Accompaniment Advanced 5 - 8 in semesters 5 to 8. Solo piano lessons for Accompaniment 5 - 8 students may be continued for credit with departmental permission.
- Many existing 3-credit point units of study in the History and Analysis of Music, including Foundation units, will be replaced by 6 credit point units of study. Transition students may take any of the new units of study and, in addition, will be able to take the pre-2008 Foundation units (e.g., Music History 1 – 6) with departmental permission.
- Compositional Techniques and Analysis 1 and 2 will be open to all students.
- Second study (Elective Performance Study) is available for up to 2 semesters for approved students with departmental permission.

### **Bachelor of Music (Musicology)**

- Many existing 3 credit point units in the Studies of History and Analysis of Music, including Foundation units, will be replaced by 6 credit point units of study under the new degree. Transition students may take any of the new units of study and, in addition, will be able to take the pre-2008 Foundation units (e.g., Music History 1 – 6) with departmental permission.
- Musicology Honours students are no longer required to undertake 12 credit points in the Faculty of Arts but may elect to do so.
- Increased credit points for Honours have been allocated to recognise student effort.
- Compositional Techniques and Analysis 1 and 2 have been opened to all students.
- Second study (Elective Performance Study) is available for up to 2 semesters for approved students with departmental permission.

### **Bachelor of Music (Composition)**

- From 2008 composition degrees will be offered in two distinct strands: **instrumental/traditional** and **electroacoustic**. Students will choose to specialise in one of these strands from third year (Principal Study 5 - 8).

- **All students will be required to take Electroacoustic Music 1 and 2** (these units of study replace the pre-2008 Electronic Music 1 and 2 units).
- Those in the instrumental/traditional strand will not be required to take any further Electroacoustic Music units of study. They are required to take Composer Performer Workshop 1 – 4.
- Students specialising in electroacoustic music take a further 4 electroacoustic music units of study. They do not need to take Composer Performer Workshop 1 – 4.
- Students in the instrumental/traditional strand can elect to take electroacoustic units of study; likewise, students in the electroacoustic strand can elect to take Composer Performer Workshop units of study.
- Honours students are no longer required to take Arts units but may elect to do so.
- Increased credit points for Honours have been allocated to recognise student effort.
- Many existing 3-credit point units of study in the History and Analysis of Music, including Foundation units, will be replaced by 6 credit point units of study. Transition students may take any of the new units of study and, in addition, will be able to take the pre-2008 Foundation units (e.g., Music History 1 – 6) with departmental permission.
- Second study (Elective Performance Study) is available for up to 2 semesters for approved students with departmental permission.

#### **Bachelor of Music (Music Education)**

- Principal Study (now 6 credit points) is required in semesters 1 - 4. Principal Study in Semesters 5 – 6 may be taken as elective units of study.
- Principal Study in year 1 includes 14 individual lessons per semester (performance students) or 12 small group lessons per semester (composition and musicology students).
- In years 2 and 3 Principal Study for performance students is now 6 individual lessons and 6 ensemble classes or equivalent, and of six credit point value.
- Many existing 3-credit point units of study in the History and Analysis of Music, including Foundation units, will be replaced by 6 credit point units of study. Transition students may take any of the new units of study and, in addition, will be able to take the pre-2008 Foundation units (e.g., Music History 1 – 6) with departmental permission.
- Students will be required to take a new 6-credit point Music History (Musical Worlds of Today). This requirement will be waived for transition students who have already completed 15 credit points in Music History Foundation units.
- Practice teaching (practicum) now forms part of two units of study: Children, Music and Educational Settings, Teaching Music in the Junior Secondary School; as well as the final semester practicum unit, Professional Experience.
- Second study (Elective Performance Study) is available for up to 2 semesters for approved students with departmental permission.
- Compositional Techniques and Analysis 1 and 2 have been opened to all students.

#### **Bachelor of Music Studies**

- For performance students, Principal Study (6 credit points per semester) will be 14 individual lessons per semester in first year and then will continue in years 2 and 3 (as in the pre-2008 degree Minor Principal Study) as 8-9 individual lessons and 3-4 ensemble classes per semester or equivalent. Students may elect to give a public recital or a jury exam at the end of their degree.
- Transition students who have been enrolled in performance Principal Study at Major level in the pre-2008 degrees should consult the Transition Advisor about transferring to the new Bachelor of Music degree.
- Musicology and Composition students will continue to have 12 small group lessons per semester.

- A new unit of study, Recital Preparation (3 credit points), is mandatory when a staff accompanist is required for a recital. This unit is available for students who choose to give a public recital for assessment in Principal Study 6.
- Many existing 3 credit point units of study in the History and Analysis of Music, including Foundation units, will be replaced by 6 credit point units of study. Transition students may take any of the new units of study and, in addition, will be able to take the pre-2008 Foundation units (e.g., Music History 1 – 6) with departmental permission.
- Bachelor of Music Students are required to complete 12 credit points of Historical and Cultural Studies or approved equivalent study.
- Second study (Elective Performance Study) is available for up to 2 semesters for approved students with departmental permission.
- Compositional Techniques and Analysis 1 and 2 have been opened to all students.
- Students who meet the criteria may also now enrol in the new appended Bachelor of Music Studies Honours year.

#### **Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Arts**

- The proposed changes to the Bachelor of Music Studies degree also apply to the Bachelor of Music Studies component of the Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Arts.
- Students who meet the criteria may undertake Honours in the Bachelor of Arts and/or may enrol in the new Honours year in the BMusStudies degree.
- The Arts component of this award course is unchanged.

#### **Bachelor of Music Studies/Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery**

- The proposed changes to the Bachelor of Music Studies degree also apply to the Bachelor of Music Studies component of the Bachelor of Music Studies/MBBS.
- Students who meet the criteria may also now enrol in the appended Bachelor of Music Studies Honours year.
- The science and medicine components of this award course are unchanged.

#### **Diploma of Music**

- In semesters 3 and 4 students enrol in Principal Study 3 and 4 and Principal Study 3 and 4 (Advanced).
- *Jazz students:* Most units of study, including Jazz Music Skills 1 - 4 will be offered as 6 credit point subjects. Jazz Ensemble 1 - 2 are now offered in Semesters 1 and 2. These units of study are a combination of the previous Jazz Piano 1 - 2 plus Jazz Small Ensemble plus Elective Jazz Orchestra. In semesters 3 - 4, students will take Jazz Small Ensemble (Advanced) and Big Band.
- Students must follow mandatory enrolment patterns as set out in the faculty Handbook. Students take Jazz Music Skills 1 – 4 OR Harmony and Analysis 1 – 4 and either Aural Perception 1 – 4 or Aural Perception 1A, 1B, 2 and 3; Principal Study 1 – 4 and Principal Study 3 – 4 (Advanced); Orchestral Studies/Ensemble/Jazz Ensemble for four semesters; Jazz History A and B (Jazz students only); and either Historical and Cultural Studies or chamber music or other free choice electives (classical vocal/instrumental students).
- A new unit of study, Recital Preparation (3 credit points), is mandatory when a staff accompanist is required for a recital. This unit is available for Diploma students enrolled in Principal Study 4.
- Many existing 3-credit point units of study in the History and Analysis of Music, including Foundation units, will be replaced by 6 credit point units of study. These can be taken as electives.
- Second study (Elective Performance Study) is available for up to 2 semesters for approved students with departmental permission.
- Compositional Techniques and Analysis 1 and 2 have been opened to all students.

### **Advanced Diploma of Opera**

- Most units of study have been revised to 6 credit points by combining existing units of study or developing new curriculum.
- Students must follow a mandatory enrolment pattern as set out in the Handbook.
- Students receive 14 individual lessons per semester in Opera Voice. Vocal coaching is also available in each semester of the course.
- Other opera units of study include opera production and diction.

### **I need more information about transition. Where do I go?**

If you missed the Transition Sessions held for your degree/diploma and unit in August 2007, help is still at hand. The Sydney Conservatorium of Music has appointed a full-time Transition Advisor, Cedric Poon, to support you in making a decision about whether or not to transfer. The Transition Advisor will assist you with any questions and will also meet with you to discuss transition issues specific to your enrolment. Please contact Cedric Poon - [c.poon@usyd.edu.au](mailto:c.poon@usyd.edu.au)

You can also contact the Student Administration Office, [coninfo@usyd.edu.au](mailto:coninfo@usyd.edu.au), +61 2 9351 1216 or you can also find transition information on the Sydney Conservatorium of Music's website: <http://www.music.usyd.edu.au/CS/courseinfo/degreetransition.shtml>



## **Addendum C:**

### **SCM response to SRC questions raised at the Academic Board meeting: July 2, 2008:**

#### **Introduction**

The SCM benchmarking procedures are outlined in detail in the *Curriculum Task Force Report Executive Summary – October 2006, (Addendum D)* and the attached *Media Release – October 8, 2007*.

Most other national music institutions are members of G8 Universities, and it is within this realm and peer group that we seek to obtain the directions and guidance on curriculum and program development rather than the Australian National Academy of Music.

It should be noted that during the consultation process for changes to the SCM degree and diploma programs, students were allowed every opportunity to respond. SCM student representatives were present at all SCM Music Curriculum Taskforce meetings. Several forums were held to which all current students and staff were invited, as well as the Task Force Report being available online for a two-week period for student and staff comment. Degree transition information outlining all changes has been available on the faculty website since August 2007, as well as a full-time Transition Officer advising students on a one-to-one basis. Numerous seminars were held in each SCM Unit where the Taskforce Chair addressed both staff and students on proposed changes and transition arrangements. The 2008 SCM Undergraduate Faculty Handbook also contains all information (in specific colour-coded sections) pertaining to both old and new degree programs.

#### **1. What is the current practice at the Conservatorium of Music in regard to the following issues:**

- How is current practice different from the last five years?
- How does current practice compare to similar institutions, both nationally and internationally, including comparisons with the Australian National Academy of Music, particularly in relation to the following items:

- **Hours per student for individual tuition**

The BMus Studies program has increased from 12 to 14 hours of tuition, which can be delivered as a minimum of 8 individual one-hour lessons plus 6 small group master classes. All students in their first year of BMus or BMus Studies programs receive 14 individual lessons as opposed to only 12 lessons for pre-2008 BMusEd and BMusStudies degrees. Tuition arrangements can vary across different units. Individual tuition has remained the same or increased slightly for all degrees. In the BMus(MusEd) degree 3 hours of individual tuition has been substituted with 3 hour small group sessions working with guest senior staff or distinguished artists. This is more appropriate to professional outcome whilst also providing a diverse educational and pedagogical learning experience to all BMus Education students.



- **Access to free accompaniment (it is very costly to pay for accompaniment and this unduly adds to student expenses)**

SCM is justly proud of its world-class Ensemble Studies Unit and recognises that the provision of staff accompanists who are able to work with individual students for up to 8 hours per semester is a substantial pedagogical benefit that is not duplicated at any other Australian tertiary institution or accredited university course. Recital preparation units are available for 3 semesters to prepare for a degree recital or jury examination, i.e, for Principal Study 4, 6 and 8.

By including recital preparation in the curriculum, we can ensure that all students have equitable assessment and access, whilst at the same time allowing us to ascertain exact requirements on faculty members providing support.

- **Chamber music tutorials**

According to David Miller (Chair of Unit in Ensemble Studies), there are currently far greater numbers of students receiving increased hours of Chamber music tutorials than prior to 2005.

Previously students rarely attended more than 5 tutorials per semester. Current practice now involves a minimum of 6 tutorials plus 3 to 4 seminars/semester. Prior to 2005, there were only 8 chamber music recitals at SCM per year, now there are 10 concerts at SCM per semester as well as external concerts and tours. That is an increase of 250% in performance opportunity, with 12 more concerts.

Degree requirements have not changed, performers in the BMus program are still required to complete 4 semesters of Chamber Music, including one semester of Composer Performance Workshop. Further semesters of Chamber Music are available as elective units.

- **Hours for orchestral studies and concerti**

The SCM Orchestral Study hours are set based on international standards which allow our students and their degrees to travel and study internationally.

Previously, only one third of the student body experienced performing in a conducted ensemble, maybe 2 – 3 times/year. Conducted ensemble experience is now available for all students with 2 – 4 professional concerts per annum. SCM boasts the finest orchestral studies program in the nation. There is now a far greater diversity of musical experience and opportunity for all students with the introduction of new ensemble groups including the Modern Music and Early Music Ensembles, Wind Band, and recorder and Gamelan Ensembles. Keyboard players can also extend their repertoire/experience through either Accompaniment, Continuo or Studio Rehearsal units.

Orchestral Studies units 1 & 2 have been increased from 3 to 6 credit points in response to student requests regarding the proportion of time required against 3 credit points.

- **Solo performance opportunities**

Solo performance opportunities have increased 400%.

*(Please see attached document outlining performance opportunities).*

- **Technical exams**

These are included as part of the current overall exam structure for each degree and are determined in agreement with the Chair of each Unit.



**2. It is apparent to the SRC that the rationale behind recent changes to degree programmes at the Conservatorium are not appreciated by students. Please can the Faculty outline the reasons for changes in the following:**

○ **Second year public recital**

Second year Principal Study assessment requirements for either degree programs has not changed. Principal Study 4 includes a qualifying exam assessed by a panel 15 – 25 minutes. (BMus: 25 mins; BMusStud, BMusEd: 15 mins) **OR a public recital at junior level assessed by a panel 40 mins for DipMus degrees only.** Teacher grade 20%, Panel grade 80%.  
(See UG Handbook; pages 39 and 235)

○ **Study of Pedagogy**

Core requirements across all undergraduate programs have been revised so that every student receives core skills as per international minimal requirements. This not only assists students in planning their progress through their award courses, it also enables easy transferral from one program to another.

The SCM recognises that many SCM students currently teach and/or will teach during their careers, either in individual (studio) teaching or in class/seminar situations. All students are still required to complete a Core requirement of 3 credit points in any 'teaching music' subject, including units of study in studio pedagogy or music education. A large range of Pedagogy units (including new Jazz and Guitar units) are available to students in their elective or free choice areas.

○ **Study of Music Technology**

Music Technology is no longer a Core requirement, as per European and US core curriculums, the Association of European Conservatoriums (AEC) and the National Association of Music Schools (NAM). It is however, still strongly recommended for students in both Composition and Music Education programs. Both staff and student feedback on this unit of study agreed that it should become non-compulsory. This was due to many students already having competence in this area, and others not finding it relevant to their study areas. The content of this course has been substantially revised and brought up-to-date. It is still widely available to all students, offered in both semesters every year as an elective or free choice.

○ **Development of Recital Preparation**

Recital preparation units are available in up to 3 semesters for students who require a staff accompanist for a recital or jury examination, i.e, for Principal Study 4, 6 and 8.

By including recital preparation in the curriculum, SCM can ensure that all students have access, whilst at the same time allowing us to ascertain exact requirements on faculty members providing support. Both continuing and new students are required to enrol in these units to secure staff accompanists.

Full course descriptions can be found in the Handbook as follows:

- ACCP3611 Recital Preparation 1
- ACCP3612 Recital Preparation 2
- ACCP3613 Recital Preparation 3



The purpose of recital preparation units of study is to develop the range of skills that musicians must possess to prepare them to be professional performers particularly in an ensemble situation. Students will receive training/instruction in all aspects of collaborative recital preparation. Through recital repertoire chosen by the student and the principal study teacher at the beginning of the semester, students will learn practical application of elements of recital preparation and performance including appropriate recital structure, issues in collaborative performance, strategies for improvement of accuracy of rhythmic and intonation control, ethics and professional conduct of a musician. Students must abide by the recital preparation attendance and rehearsal policy of the Ensemble Studies Unit. The objectives of this Unit of Study are to develop: the ability to concentrate and perform with commitment; teamwork; the ability to work effectively with another musician. Assessment is based on all aspects of participation in the preparation sessions. Assessment criteria include: level of preparation, actual performance in the sessions, commitment, concentration, ability and teamwork. For further information contact the relevant Chair of the Ensemble Studies Unit.

o **Study of free choice subjects.**

In line with international peer benchmarking and SCM Unit expectations of student workload and effort, the proportion of units of study relating to Principal Study had to be increased. This is also in line with the University-wide requirement of standardisation of undergraduate subjects to 6 credit point units of study. Although some reductions in other Core areas have been made, the proportion of Free Choice units has inevitably decreased in some degree programs. However, the greatest proportion of Free Choice units has been retained by the Bachelor of Music Studies, with 23 -30% electives in the 3 and 4 year (hons) degrees. This is comparable with leading bench-marked programs from Europe and the USA, (where 20 – 24% are electives).

**3. Please can the Faculty outline the availability of practice rooms for students?**

The Conservatorium has a generous supply of acoustically treated practice rooms (approximately 70) for enrolled students to use, and are available from 7am to 10pm.

A recent survey conducted by the Conservatorium Facilities Management Team found that practice rooms were most heavily used on Wednesdays and Fridays between 7am and 11am, preceding concert practice sessions. On other days of the week, practice rooms were found to be 80% unoccupied before 10am and after 3pm.

Students can also book ensemble rooms for rehearsals with the Space & Timetable Coordinator.

Practice rooms are located:

- on Level 1 in the inner corridor at the rear of the building and near the Percussion studios (percussion only)
- on Levels 2 and 3 in the corridors around the recital halls
- in the front turrets of Level 4 in the Greenway building.

Enrolled students may use these facilities at any time when the building is open without booking and are encouraged to use the rooms as much as possible. The efficient management and sharing of this resource requires that students using practice facilities adhere to the following code of conduct:



- Students must carry their current student card with them at all times and show that card to Conservatorium or security staff on request.
- Students may practice for as long as they wish unless another student requires the room in which case they must vacate it on the hour. In periods of heavy use, if no practice rooms are available, students may knock on the door of any room on the hour and politely request that it be vacated. The student occupying the room at that time should vacate it promptly. Students who have vacated one room in this way may relocate to another room either when one becomes available or by using this principle.
- Practice rooms cannot be held by leaving instruments in the rooms, nor can they be used as storage facilities.
- Practice rooms equipped with studio pianos are to be used only by pianists. Practice rooms are to be used for practice only. Students may not take food or drink into practice rooms.
- Under no circumstances should practice rooms be used for private teaching. Students who teach in practice rooms may have their rights to practice in the Conservatorium rooms revoked.
- Music stands must be returned to their original location at the conclusion of any group rehearsal.
- Keyboard students requiring the use of a grand piano may request special access to teaching studios at the Student Support Office (Room 2151). Double bass, harp and harpsichord students may also book studios for practice. In all other cases, teaching studios should not be used for student practice.
- Look after the practice rooms for present and future students.
- Take responsibility for your property, as the Conservatorium cannot accept liability for broken, missing or stolen items. The building is open to the general public and the security of your property cannot be guaranteed.

Conservatorium staff members have been advised to eject anyone found to be disregarding the above conditions of use for a minimum period of 5 hours. Repeat instances will be reviewed in direct consultation with the relevant chair of unit.

## *Addendum D*

SYDNEY  
CONSERVATORIUM  
OF MUSIC



# **CURRICULUM TASK FORCE REPORT**

## **SYDNEY CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC MISSION STATEMENT**

***“The Sydney Conservatorium of Music is a cultural catalyst inspiring the study, research creation and performance of music in all its forms, to prepare students for artistic innovative performance and scholarship at the highest level of excellence, to foster lifelong commitment to music and culture and to provide enjoyment and enlightenment to all people.”***

October 2006

SYDNEY  
CONSERVATORIUM  
OF MUSIC



## Executive Summary Curriculum Task Force Report

***“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything”. – Plato***

The Sydney Conservatorium of music was founded by Henry Verbrugghen in 1915. Since that time it has continued to provide a musical education to the citizens of Sydney and Australia and has achieved and maintained its reputation as the leading music school in the country.

### Background

In 2015, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (SCM) will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> year as the oldest and one of the finest music programs in Asia. Distinguished alumni include such luminaries as Sir Charles Mackerras, Sir Richard Bonynghe, Richard Tognetti, Paul Dyer, Yvonne Kenny, Simone Young, Antony Walker and Andrew Briger among others. A list of some of the legendary guest artists to have visited the SCM includes virtuoso violinist and composer Fritz Kreisler, Yehudi Menuhin, Jascha Heifitz, Aaron Copland, Luciano Berio, Hans Werner Henze, Dame Nellie Melba, Dame Joan Sutherland, international conductors Vladimir Ashkenazy, Loren Maazel, Charles Dutoit to name but a few.

Against a backdrop of ongoing success in educational programs and services, and aware of international accreditation, Sydney Conservatorium of Music instituted a full review of curriculum (post graduate and undergraduate) programs by international standards to ensure that SCM continues to offer programs that are relevant to current learning philosophies, unparalleled in their content and faculty quality, and second to none in excellence and curricular innovation.

In 2005 SCM instituted a revised assessment policy which has recently been cited by three Go8 universities as a national model for their current reviews. The PG review was championed by Peter Dunbar-Hall in 2005 and has led to a new conducting course for 2007 as well as other specific targeted degrees for 2008. Our program will enable student mobility and international recognition of our graduate degrees by research and coursework. This is part of a long-term process through which all graduate programs will be reviewed and if necessary, restructured. Currently the Graduate Diplomas (Accompaniment and Master of Music Studies (Opera) are under review.

Following detailed discussions at the December 2005 Faculty retreat, where I shared the international benchmarking norms for degrees and diplomas in higher institutions of Music, a core curriculum was discussed and faculty were asked to consider a three-tiered approach of a common core, specific program requirements and then a belt of electives for all our students.

Chairs and members of the Undergraduate Studies Committee worked with the Curriculum Task Force to produce dramatically revised UG proposals for 2008 curriculum review that will streamline and strengthen our undergraduate programs. The review will also bring many of our unit offerings in line with the 6 credit point subjects now offered by most University of Sydney faculties. **The process so far has involved the efforts of many staff, students and leading professionals. My appreciation and recognition are extended to the many SCM colleagues whose work demonstrates tremendous thinking, a clear restatement of the quality curriculum, innovation and entrepreneurial drive that has made SCM famous in the first place.** Particular thanks to Dr. Jennifer Shaw for her work chairing the Curriculum Task Force.

The core curriculum and every aspect of this program have been reviewed – from curriculum to assessment, to program, to scheduling, technology, faculty, marketing, advertising, networking, recruiting and more. The current curriculum review provides an extraordinary opportunity to be a leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world of music.

Furthermore, SCM and the Open Academy will be implementing a program in lifelong learning that provides meaningful experiences for all ages in music, creativity, special courses, and online education for teachers, special offerings at SCM for alumni during the summer and winter breaks, and Internet based-courses that draw upon distance education. This will require time, transition and co-operation.

### **The Process**

Invitations to key members across every unit of the faculty were extended to form a Curriculum Task Force, which Dr. Jennifer Shaw agreed to chair. Extensive consultation has taken place over 11 months with the staff, students and the profession. Focus groups were gathered with members of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian Brandenburg orchestra, Opera Australia, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Australian Music Centre as well as international leadership from Yale, Julliard, Indiana University, Rice University, Cornell and Stanford Universities, The Royal Northern College of Music and Drama as well as the Royal College of Music. The process is outlined in full in the report which follows.

SCM has established and secured endorsement for our curriculum proposals from the Association of European Conservatories (AEC), the European League of International Art Schools (ELIAS) and the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) in the USA. The proposed curriculum matches extremely well to the demands of both the Bologna process and US accreditation. This will also enhance exchange when students from abroad can gain useful accreditation by unit, semester or year and vice-versa.

SCM will be the only Australian institution, Asian institution with such endorsement.

### **Benchmarking**

On behalf of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, I commissioned a benchmark data report to be compiled independently by the national arts accreditation services in the USA as well as gathering similar data from leading institutions in Europe to be independently compiled and serve as a benchmark reference for our program review. These documents provide detailed curriculum data from 153 US institutions, categorized by:

- size in the categories of 1-100 majors, 101-200 majors, 201-300 majors, over 400 majors;

- private and public; and
- their rankings in the top 5%, 25%, 50%, 75% or below.

The curriculum proposal which follows is outcomes based, to provide the professional skill set designed to meet the needs and optimize the opportunities for our graduates. In delivering a piano degree, the paper is only valid if at the end of the day, those musicians find response and invitation for their musicianship in the profession.

## Results

What is proposed is an impressive array of programs both in terms of music genre and level that allows for immense flexibility and mobility for our students. SCM has undergone a period of consolidation and development of new programs that will allow for the promotion of SCM as a comprehensive and 21<sup>st</sup> century expression of a professional music training institution. There are three key programs proposed by the Curriculum task force for UG study which will allow students full international recognition and portability. Additionally, the various options allow for a broad comprehensive education to become more specific and/or for a specific and intense education to broaden. The three broad streams are:

1. A truly robust professional training program for performance degrees.
2. A stream for creative scholars of excellence with performance concentration in musicology, music education, composition which will comply with DET regulation.
3. A broader program for a comprehensive undergraduate experience which offers minimally less performance opportunity and optimal exposure to the University of Sydney across the humanities, medical and science degrees. This is designed for broad minds who wish to study music in the B Mus studies degree.

These all provide for program stratification that allows for multiple level UG entry and exit points, a common UG first-year experience and direct access to our top teachers from the earliest moments at SCM.

## The SCM

- Enrols more than 5000 students through all its programs (largest and most comprehensive Conservatorium program in Australia)
- Attracted 59 students from 22 countries in 2006
- Attracts students from all states of Australia
- Enrols one in every four applicants.
- Is the only University faculty in Australia currently hosting two Fulbright Scholars
- Graduates around 200 tertiary students each year
- Employs more than 400 people
- Pumps more than \$60m per annum into the local economy
- Attracts around 150,000 concert visitors (external to University) each year
- Engages actively with the major cultural institutions in the City of Sydney, as well as across the nation and international alliances.

With 811 tertiary students, 4000 students in the Open Academy, 200 students in the Conservatorium High School and 300 faculty members, many of whom perform professionally or are scholars of international acclaim, SCM is Australia's leading musical institution and the birthplace of Australia's musical destiny.

The SCM is the largest presenter of concerts in Sydney having 465 public concerts and recitals performed in 2005. The exceptional, world-class building and facilities, of the SCM makes it a jewel in the crown for the University of Sydney, the New South Wales Government and the Australia.

The curriculum reform links with the accreditation requirements of international standards of the AEC (Association of European Conservatories) and NASM (National Association of Schools of Music). Both global accrediting bodies have shared recommendations and applaud the curriculum initiatives set for 2008. They will be visiting Sydney to conduct on-site accreditation reviews over the next 18 months. Successful accreditation will provide SCM with an unparalleled opportunity to establish itself among the world leaders of music education institutions.

Our current degrees do not guarantee mobility for all our students. In Europe, accreditation status as a Higher School (Hochschule) versus a "School of Music" without research or music education and seen as a stand-alone conservatorium requires not only academic 3+1 programs and Honours courses, but also to ensure that we cover core capabilities with a professional level orchestral program. In the US, rankings of music schools depend upon the orchestral program. Therefore attention has been given to the amount of principal study, ensemble and chamber music training based on international standards which exceed those of Australia.

During the past 18 months SCM has been recognised by national and international peers for the significant improvement in the quality of teaching, performance and the ensemble program, bringing them up to world-class standards.

## **Conclusion**

1999 to 2005 was about building the extraordinary venue. 2006 to 2010 is about achieving accreditation in the highest categories of Performance and Research from the AEC and NASM as well as aggressively pursuing a strategic and urgent transformation of the SCM's academic capacity, community and financial profiles through increasing resources and building capability to achieve ongoing quality and excellence.

There is challenging work to be done at the SCM, and it is not easy work to do. I was not hired to maintain the status quo, and those who value the SCM have only the highest aspirations for this life-changing place. SCM deserves no less.

The SCM community has been given a rare moment in time in which to redefine this unique Australian treasure and to reaffirm Sydney Conservatorium of Music's pre-eminence. So few arts institutions are ever given this opportunity. We are going to do this by taking our collective energy forward in bold ways – just as Henri Verbrugghen did – and once again serve as an innovator, a model, and a leader. Our heritage demands it. Our future depends on it.

And so we are building a community that is inclusive, collaborative, entrepreneurial, strategic and efficient, a community that personally engages all of us – not just a few – in the process of creating a vibrant team and illustrious future for the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.